

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

VOL. VI NO. 14

July 5th 1957

Price: 15 Pf., 5c., 3d

POLAND, E. GERMANY:

"Common Interest in Socialism & Peace"

Poland and Democratic Germany stressed their common interests in building Socialism and safeguarding peace in a joint declaration published in Berlin on June 20th.

The declaration was signed at the end of a three-day visit to Berlin by a Polish delegation led by Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz and Wladyslaw Gomulka, First Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party. Chief German representatives at the discussions were Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party.

The government declaration stressed the necessity for close cooperation between the two countries, which had identical aims of building Socialism and safeguarding peace.

The declaration underlined the importance of close economic cooperation, as manifested in the agreement signed in April by which Democratic Germany granted Poland an investment credit of 400 million roubles for the construction of important soft coal mines in Poland. Further agreements, including consular agreements and a customs agreement, are envisaged soon.

The declaration stressed the importance for European peace of the German-Polish frontier on the Oder-Neisse, and condemned constant West German attacks on this frontier.

Here are some other main points from the declaration:

1. Both Governments favour international agreements outlawing weapons of mass destruction,

and support proposals for a zone of limited armaments in Europe which would include both German states and some neighbouring countries.

2. Remilitarisation in West Germany is a threat to Democratic Germany, Poland and other countries. The West German demand for a direct link between the problem of disarmament and German reunification is an excuse to block reunification.

3. The Polish Government "states categorically that the German Democratic Republic is the leading force in the German people's fight for a peaceful, democratic and united Germany." Both partners to the declaration agreed that the peaceful reunification of Germany was the task of the German people themselves and could be achieved through an understanding between the two German states.

4. The Polish Government repeats that it is interested in normalising relations with the German Federal Republic.

5. Both sides are prepared to strengthen the Warsaw Pact, which must remain in force so long as the North Atlantic Pact exists and no system of collective security has been created in Europe.

6. Both sides "are bound by inseparable ties of friendship and solidarity with the USSR, the People's Republic of China the Czechoslovak Republic and other Socialist countries, between whom relationships of aid on a basis of equality and brotherly cooperation on Lenin's principles of pro-

(cont. on next page)

TV FILM PREMIERES FOR THE VILLAGES

East German technicians have begun preliminary work on a "closed-circuit" television network which will bring film premieres to the smallest villages simultaneously with Berlin and other big centres, it was announced in Berlin.

The announcement said that planning was still in the very early stages, and many technical difficulties still remained to be overcome. The film television network would be designed to provide a picture as large as that now shown on the ordinary cinema screen, and would be of at least the same quality as normal cinema projection.

The announcement was made in an article by Professor Albert Wilkening, director of the central studios of DEFA, the nationally-owned film company of the German Democratic Republic. In the same article he gave some details of some of the plans for DEFA film production in the coming years. The plans included a biographical film on Karl Marx, which he hoped might be produced with the cooperation of film people in Britain, France and the Soviet Union. Other plans include co-productions with film producers in Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Poland, China, India and many other countries.

(cont. from preceding page)

POLAND, DEMOCRATIC GERMANY STRESS COMMON INTERESTS

letarian internationalism are developing."

(Full text of the Government Declaration is given on page 97 of this issue.)

Another declaration was issued on the discussions which had been held between the Socialist Unity Party and the Polish United Worker's Party. The declaration stated that the discussions had been conducted in a "friendly atmosphere of proletarian internationalism". The two parties were linked by a history of struggle and by the common idea of Marxism-Leninism. "All speculations on the possibility of sowing discord between our parties or between the working people of Poland and the German Democratic Republic are without prospects of success" the declaration stated.

"The interests of Socialist reconstruction and the maintenance of peace demand a further strengthening of unity, friendship and

of brotherly cooperation between the Socialist countries. Both parties express their strong opposition to all attempts to weaken this unity and cooperation through anti-Soviet propaganda . . .

"All countries have common principles of Socialist construction . . . these principles should be applied in a creative way and with reference to the historically developed conditions and national peculiarities of each country. This carries with it the necessity and the possibility for each country to apply its own forms and methods in building Socialism."

The declaration stated that the discussions had brought the two parties closer together, and had contributed to full mutual understanding. In future both parties would consult together on all questions of interest to both sides.

(Full text of the Party Declaration is given on page 99 of this issue.)

SOVIET CONCERN OVER WEST GERMAN ATOM-ARMS

The Soviet Government noted with concern on June 28th that the West German Government did not intend to renounce its plans to arm the West German Wehrmacht with atomic weapons.

This was one of the main points of a Soviet Note addressed on this date to the West German Government.

Here are the main points of the latest Soviet note:

1. The Government of the German Federal Republic does not intend

to renounce atomic weapons, and shows no readiness to help in the solution of the disarmament problem.

2. The equipment of the West German Wehrmacht with atomic weapons is an irrevocable blow to all hopes for the peaceful reunification of Germany.

3. The conversion of West Germany into an atomic base for NATO will make it necessary for the Socialist countries to take counter-measures for their security.

ATOM PIONEER CALLS FOR PARLEY

Nobel prize winner Professor Otto Hahn, first man to split the atom, has called for an international scientists conference to halt the drive to atom war.

Professor Hahn, West Germany's most respected physicist, said that such a conference of atom-scientists from East and West could work out

methods of control over atomic armament.

Together with 17 other West German atom scientists Professor Hahn declared publicly on April 12th this year that he would refuse to do any work on atomic weapons, and strongly opposed the equipment of the West German Wehrmacht with such weapons.

99.5% Vote

More than 99% of all valid votes were cast for the coalition list of candidates proposed by the National Front in the local elections held in the German Democratic Republic on June 23rd.

The elections were held to fill a total of about 190,000 seats on city, district and rural councils throughout East Germany. The joint lists of candidates were drawn up by the five political parties and the mass organisations such as the trade unions which are represented in the National Front, and all candidates presented themselves for approval to voters' meetings before confirmation. A number of the candidates proposed were rejected at such meetings, and replaced by others. The actual voting on June 23rd constituted final approval of the revised lists by the electors.

Under the new local election law, used for the first time at this election, electoral wards have been reduced in size, and the number of councillors has been increased, so that councillors can maintain more intimate contact with their constituents than hitherto.

Official election results, announced on June 24th, showed that just over 97% of the 11,847,146 voters went to the polls. 0.36% of the ballots were invalid, and 99.64% were valid. Of these valid votes, 99.52% were cast for the coalition list of candidates.

Louis Fuernberg, Poet, Dies

Louis Fuernberg, one of the foremost writers of the German Democratic Republic, died on June 23rd aged 48. Fuernberg, who was born in Czechoslovakia, was forced to leave his homeland after the Nazi occupation in 1939, and spent the war years in Palestine. After the war he entered the Czechoslovak diplomatic service, and served in the Czechoslovak Embassy in East Berlin.

In 1954 Fuernberg, who had always written in German, became a citizen of the German Democratic Republic, and took the post of Deputy Director of the National Research Centre in Classical German Literature in Weimar.

Yugoslav Trade Mission in East Berlin

The Yugoslav Chamber of Foreign Trade has opened an office in East Berlin as the result of an agreement with the Chamber of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic, it was announced on June 23rd. The German Democratic Republic has maintained a similar office in Belgrade since last year.

E. GERMANY'S LUFTHANSA

— LINK WITH THE WORLD

East Germany's civil airline, the "Lufthansa", although founded only two years ago, already constitutes an important link in the air services of central and eastern Europe. As the map on this page shows, the Luft-hansa flies regular routes to the East European capitals of Warsaw, Prague, Budapest, Sofia, Bucharest and Moscow, and acts as a feeder service for other eastern and western air lines serving most parts of Europe and Asia.

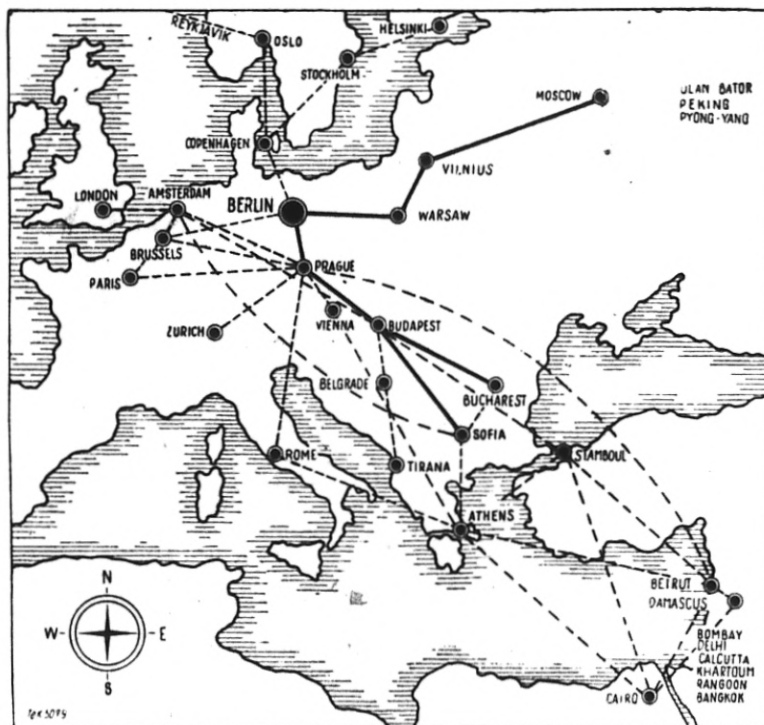
Many of these east European air routes are now cheaper to use than the regular international trains. The flight from Berlin to Moscow costs 590 marks — 65 marks less than the equivalent train fare — and the journey is 84 hours shorter.

At present most flights are made by Soviet-manufactured IL-14 two-engined planes, since Democratic Germany had no aircraft industry when the Lufthansa began operations. These imported planes are being supplemented by planes of the same type now manufactured on licence at the big aircraft works which have been built near Dresden.

Flight crews are still largely composed of Soviet pilots and navigators working for Lufthansa, since Democratic Germany had very few qualified pilots when the air line was opened. Training is going ahead rapidly, however, and the planes will soon be flown by all-German crews.

Biggest development foreseen by Lufthansa in the near future is the introduction of medium range turbo-jet planes on the longer flights. The turbo-jet "152" is at present in course of construction in the Dresden plane works, and the maiden flight is scheduled for next year. This new plane, entirely planned and manufactured in Democratic Germany, is expected to be one of the fastest medium-range civil airliners, with a planned airspeed of 500 miles an hour. Two types are planned: one for first-class flights with 40 seats, and one for tourist flights with 60 seats. It is hoped to have the new plane in service before the Second Five Year Plan period ends in 1960.

Apart from the international lines, the Lufthansa operates regular local services inside the German Democratic Republic 'tself, linking Berlin



The thick line on the map shows the regular air routes served by planes of the Lufthansa of the German Democratic Republic. Dotted lines show routes flown by other companies which have concluded reciprocal agreements with Lufthansa.

with Leipzig, Dresden, Erfurt and the Baltic coast. These routes were opened for the first time during June this year.

Democratic Germany's Lufthansa, which should not be confused with

the West German airline of the same name, will also open an air-taxi service this year, linking Berlin with 20 cities in the Democratic Republic and neighbouring countries.

TO PROBE NEO-NAZIS

A special investigation commission should be established to probe neo-nazism in West Germany, three of East Germany's outstanding cultural figures have proposed.

The proposal was made by Anna Seghers, author of "The Seventh Cross", filmed fifteen years ago with Spencer Tracy in the lead; Arnold Zweig, world famous author of "The Case of Sergeant Grischa", and Helene Weigel-Brecht, great actress and widow of dramatist Bertolt Brecht.

They called upon members of parliaments, resistance fighters, writers and lawyers of all nations to join in the establishment of the commission. Main task of the commission should be to investigate the influence today in the West German judicial system of judges and lawyers shown to have committed serious crimes in the Hitler period; to look into the influence in the West German Wehrmacht of leading members of the Hitlerite army; and to investigate the present activities of sentenced nazi war criminals now released.

FIGHTING TB

By Luitpold Steidle

Minister of Health of the German Democratic Republic

Without undue optimism, we believe that the tuberculosis problem can be solved in about 20 years in the German Democratic Republic.

An analysis of the tuberculosis situation in the Republic clearly indicates that the methods hitherto employed against this disease have been correct. The total number of TB patients per 10,000 inhabitants treated rose from 121.6 in 1949 to 125.6 in 1955. But there have been very significant changes within this general framework, the most important being a reduction — frequently of as much as 50 per cent — in all age groups under 25.

The number of new cases decreased from 53.7 per 10,000 inhabitants in 1949 to 25.9 per 10,000 in 1955. This process has been steady, although the tempo of reduction has slowed down to 2.5 per 10,000 inhabitants in 1955. But it is a genuine reduction, since the number of new patients with contagious TB has gone down 63 per cent — more rapidly than the non-contagious forms, which have gone down 47 per cent.

In the German Federal Republic, on the other hand, the reductions have been mainly in the non-contagious forms. The reduction in all forms of non-contagious TB amongst children between birth and 15 years accounts for more than half the reduction, and there have been only minor reductions in the number of contagious TB cases since 1952.

Deaths from TB in the German Democratic Republic fell steadily from 16.3 per 10,000 inhabitants in 1947 to 2.5 per 10,000 in 1955 — a reduction of 85 per cent. This has raised the average age of men suffering from TB from 45.7 to 56.9 and of women from 41.6 to 52.5. In 1955 only 35 per cent of all TB deaths occurred during the first two years of treatment in the TB centres, as compared with 72 per cent in 1949. If we take into consideration the very high proportion of our population which is in the 45-and-over age groups — generally speaking 10 per cent and in the oldest age groups as much as 20 per cent higher than in the Federal Republic — it is clear that these figures represent big successes.

Another indication of success is the reduction in the number of cases which do not respond to treatment.

The government allocates about 24 million marks a year in assistance to contagious TB patients, provides the necessary hospital and medicinal treatment and additional holidays. This has resulted in a reduction of those not responding to treatment among observation cases, non-contagious and non-contagious cases with a tendency to become contagious to 4.3 per cent of all such cases.

(From a speech at the opening meeting of the Tuberculosis Society of the German Democratic Republic in Weimar, June 1957)

NAZI MEDALS

Nazi war decorations, including the Iron Cross, may again be worn in West Germany, the West German parliament ruled on June 27th, and they may be worn on the black-white-red ribbon symbolising German imperialism.

Social Democratic deputies opposed the use of the black-white-red ribbon, which they pointed out had always been used as a militarist symbol, and called for the use of the black-red-gold colours of the Weimar Republic and the present Federal Republic.

The dispute on the colour of the ribbon wins particular importance from the fact that during the Weimar Republic the old imperial black-white-red colours served as a rallying point for all reactionary and militarist forces who refused to recognise a republican form of government.

NAZIS IN THE NEWS

War-Criminals' Come-Back

Otto Braeutigam, one of Hitler's "experts on the Jewish problem", has been cleared of all blame for his wartime actions by a special investigation commission in the West German capital of Bonn. Dr. Braeutigam was suspended last year from his post as head of the East European Department of the Bonn Foreign Ministry after the publication of his wartime diary, which proved that he was directly implicated in the deportation and liquidation of many thousands of Jews.

The investigation commission has found no stain on his character, and announced that he could be re-employed either in the Foreign Ministry or in the West German diplomatic service abroad. Full details of the "Braeutigam Diary" were printed in GERMAN REPORT for March 2nd 1956, a copy of which will be sent on application to any reader interested.

Crimes against humanity are no reason for depriving a civil servant of his pension rights, a West German Administrative Court ruled on June 26th. The ruling was made in the case of Dr Quastenberg, member of the Nazi party since 1933 and leading official in the educational service under Hitler. In 1948 he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment for his anti-Semitic activities during the war, when he threw Jewish citizens out of air-raid shelters, and

constantly denounced Jews he saw in the streets.

The Administrative Court restored Dr Quastenberg's pension on the grounds that he had been sentenced under a law of the Allied Control Council, and not under German law, and that his activities had not been punishable at the time of their commission. Legal experts pointed out that the court decision cleared the way for the rehabilitation of most leading war criminals, since they were in most cases punished under retrospective laws promulgated by the Allied occupation authorities.

West German Financial Octopus

West German industry has invested more than 1,300 million marks in foreign countries since 1952, according to official statistics published by the Ministry of Economics in Bonn. The biggest investments have been made in Latin America, where firms such as Krupp, Kloeckner, Mannesmann, IG Farben and AEG have invested 489 million marks. 480 million marks have been invested in West European countries, 163 million marks in Canada, 86 million marks in Africa, and the remainder in Asia and Australia.

Documents of the Day

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC & THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

During the discussions there was a detailed exchange of opinions on the further development of friendly cooperation between the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland and also upon international problems of interest to both states.

I.

The identical aims of both countries in building up Socialism and strengthening peace form a firm basis for relations between them. It is in the interest of all the German people and of the Polish people and is of service to peace and European security that these relations be strengthened.

In both countries political, economic and cultural development is determined by the working class in league with the working peasants. In both countries there is no longer room for the reactionary forces of the past who are interested in the exploitation and suppression of their own and other peoples and in hate propaganda and wars of aggression.

The primary interest of both countries is the maintenance of peace. Both governments therefore declare once again their firm determination to pursue a policy consistently aimed at the maintenance and strengthening of peace. The two sides are firmly convinced that the present German-Polish frontier on the Oder river and the Lausitz-Neisse which was confirmed and demarkated on July 6th 1950, is an important element in the assurance of peace and security in Europe.

II.

The friendly relations which have developed between the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland on the basis of their mutual interests and as members of the Socialist camp, constitute an important factor for security in Europe and for developing Socialism in both countries. The two governments therefore declare that they wish to strengthen friendly cooperation between their two countries in all fields.

Both sides state that the patient efforts of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the People's Republic of China, the People's Republic of Poland, the German Democratic Republic and other Socialist countries, as well as India and other states pursuing a peace policy, and in addition the longing for peace which fills all peoples, have recently led to a lessening of international tension. But certain imperialist circles are working against this desire for relaxation of tension and for a restoration of confidence in international relations by a continuation of their policy of war pacts, extension of military bases in other countries and development of weapons of mass destruction, and of a perpetual division of Europe through the creation of separate organisations such as EURATOM and the "Common Market".

Characteristic of the activities of these circles is the pressure exerted upon some countries of the Near and Middle East, which violates the sovereignty and independence of these states. Both sides announce their complete solidarity with the liberation struggles of the peoples of these regions against imperialism and colonialism.

The governments of the German Democratic Republic and of the People's Republic of Poland are of the opinion that a peaceful settlement of all international disagreements is possible and corresponds to the interests of the peoples. They therefore reject firmly the attempts of certain imperialist circles to worsen the situation. Both governments are in favour of an international agreement on outlawing weapons of mass destruction and the reduction of existing armed forces and armaments. Both sides are of the opinion that a realisation of the Soviet Union's proposals for a cessation of experiments with atomic weapons and for an agreement to renounce the use of atom bombs would be first steps towards the absolute outlawing of atomic and hydrogen weapons.

The governments of the German Democratic Republic and of the People's Republic of Poland also support partial solutions which could contribute to future complete disarmament. They support the proposal for an international agreement on setting up a zone of limited and controlled armaments in Europe which would include both German states and some neighbouring countries.

Both sides have given considerable attention to the fact that atomic weapons are stored on the territory of the German Federal Republic and to the intentions of imperialist circles to equip the West German army with atomic weapons. These activities greatly increase the danger to peace and security in Europe emanating from German imperialism and chauvinism, which is developing ever stronger activity in the German Federal Republic.

These forces support a policy of strength in international relations and raise revisionist and revenge demands. In these circumstances the remilitarisation of the German Federal Republic, whose territory is becoming the most important atomic base of NATO in Europe, threatens the security of the German Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Poland and other countries and at the same time represents a danger for the whole German people.

The attitude of the present government of the German Federal Republic, which avoids a binding and uncompromising denial of the policy of strength in its relations to Poland, is an encouragement to open supporters of revisionism and revenge.

At the same time the government of the German Federal Republic consistently resists all — even introductory — steps towards disarmament. The demand for a direct link between the two questions of disarmament and German reunification is only an excuse to block every path to peaceful reunification and to continue rearming.

Both sides state that the revisionist activities in the German Federal Republic, especially with reference to the established and unalterable German-Polish frontier on the Oder river and the Lausitz-Neisse, are directed against peace and security in Europe. German militarism is the enemy of the German and the Polish people. The government of the German Democratic Republic resists determinedly the activities of revisionist and revenge-seeking circles in the German Federal Republic, since

they are directed against the German people themselves, in whose interest it lies to establish relations with the Polish people which are based on good-neighbourly and friendly cooperation.

Every increase in economic and political power of the People's Republic of Poland is at the same time support for the progressive and democratic forces of Germany in their fight against German militarism.

Both sides greet with approval the fact that in West Germany the forces which oppose a policy of revenge and atomic armament, forces which strive for a peaceful settlement of the German question and normalisation of relations with Socialist countries, including the People's Republic of Poland, are growing. The government of the People's Republic of Poland has already declared, and repeats, that it is interested in normalising relations with the German Federal Republic.

Guided by the desire to achieve security for their countries, which are threatened mainly by the activities of West German militarist and revenge-seeking circles, and with the aim of maintaining and strengthening peace, both sides are prepared to strengthen the defence league which binds them to the Soviet Union and to the other signatories of the Warsaw Pact. This pact, which also has the support of the People's Republic of China, is a factor in the defence of peace and security in Europe. So long as the North Atlantic Pact exists and no system of collective security for Europe has been created, it must remain in force.

Both sides are against a division of Europe into two antagonistic groups; they will therefore give their support to a proposal for the conclusion of a treaty of collective security in Europe.

The governments of the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland agree in their support of the view that, in the interests of a peaceful development for the peoples of Europe, the Baltic must remain an ocean of peace. Both governments will therefore endeavour to reach agreement with countries lying around the Baltic Sea and will take steps towards achieving this aim.

Both countries are decidedly opposed to a further deepening of the division of Europe and of Germany through the carrying out of such plans as the "Common Market" and EURATOM. These plans do not contribute to a relaxation of tension; on the contrary, they lead to domination by monopolist forces in West Germany.

Both governments are of the opinion that, in the interests of peace, a broad scientific, cultural and economic cooperation between the European states is desirable. They therefore support proposals by the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries at international conferences for the establishment of a system of all-European cooperation in the economic field and in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

The government of the People's Republic of Poland again states its view that the peaceful German Democratic Republic is of fundamental importance for the cause of peace and security in Germany and Europe.

The government of the People's Republic of Poland once again states categorically that the German Democratic Republic is the leading force in the German people's fight for a peaceful, democratic and united Germany. The support of the German Democratic Republic strengthens the democratic and progressive forces amongst the German people and helps the reunification of Germany. Both sides agree that the peaceful reunification of Germany is the task of the German people themselves and can be achieved through an understanding between the two German states.

Both sides declare that their foreign policy rests upon the basis of friendly coexistence between countries with different social systems, and that they are prepared to initiate and to develop normal relations with all states on the basis of equal rights and mutual advantage.

III.

Both sides unanimously expressed their conviction that the strengthening of the unity of the Socialist camp is the basic element in their policy of strengthening peace and international security and of carrying out their programmes of Socialist construction in the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland.

The German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland are bound by inseparable ties of friendship and solidarity with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the People's Republic of China, the Czechoslovak Republic and the other Socialist countries, between whom relationships of aid on a basis of equality and brotherly cooperation based on Lenin's principles of proletarian internationalism are developing.

IV.

The government of the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland state with satisfaction that relations between their two countries are developing in a satisfactory way for both sides.

The close friendly relations between the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland find especial expression in the agreement signed on April 17th 1957 on cooperation in building new soft coal mining enterprises in the People's Republic of Poland, which involves investment credits amounting to 400 million roubles from the German Democratic Republic to the People's Republic of Poland, and also in the trade agreement for 1957 in which an increase of 17 per cent of the 1956 total has been agreed upon.

In addition, a payments agreement, a treaty on legal assistance and a treaty on cooperation and mutual help in frontier questions were signed this year.

Both governments regard it as necessary, in the interests of a further strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries, to conclude a consular agreement, an agreement on social policy and a customs agreement.

Both sides will endeavour to develop and broaden cooperation in the fields of science, industry, technology, culture and education, so as to get to know each other better and to supplement the achievements of the one side by a knowledge of the progressive science and culture of the other.

V.

Both sides expressed their conviction that the visit of the Party and Government delegation of the People's Republic of Poland to the German Democratic Republic will contribute to the further extension of brotherly relations between the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland, to strengthening the unity of the Socialist camp and to increasing the efforts and effectiveness of the struggle of the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland to maintain peace and international security.

Berlin, June 20th 1957

For the Government of the German Democratic Republic
OTTO GROTEWOHL

For the Government of the People's Republic of Poland
JOSEF CYRANKIEWICZ

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY & THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY OF GERMANY

The delegations had detailed talks on the present international situation, problems of the international working class movement and on the struggle of both parties for peace, democracy and Socialism.

Discussions were held in a friendly atmosphere of proletarian internationalism.

I.

Both parties — the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Polish United Workers' Party — are linked together through long and glorious traditions of the decade-long combined struggle of the German and Polish working class movement for Socialism, against imperialism, militarism and war.

By the creation of a people's democratic order, the working people of both our countries, under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Polish United Workers' Party, have built the basis for firm and lasting friendship between the German and the Polish people. For the first time in history a real peace frontier between Germany and Poland was created on the Oder and Neisse rivers.

The common cause of Socialist construction and the common idea of Marxism-Leninism links both parties.

Their membership of the family of Marxist-Leninist parties and of the community of Socialist states links both parties.

The common fight for lasting peace, peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the peoples regardless of differences in their social systems links both parties. They are linked by the special responsibility for securing peace in Europe.

All speculations on the possibility of sowing discord between our two parties or between the working people of Poland and the German Democratic Republic are without prospects of success.

Both parties express their unshakable conviction that the existing unity between the two parties and between the state and working people of both countries, which rest upon the principles of proletarian internationalism, solidarity, friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, equality and mutual respect for sovereignty, will be further strengthened.

II.

The balance of power in the world changes steadily in favour of peace and Socialism. International events show that new possibilities exist for a further lessening of international tension and for peaceful progressive development in the world.

The consistent peace policy of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other states in the Socialist camp, the struggles of all Socialist forces, the increasing importance of the neutral states of Asia and Africa and the attitude of peoples freed from and striving to free themselves from the chains of colonialism,

as well as the rising resistance of the broad masses against the aggressive plans of certain militarist circles, have contributed especially to this development.

Within the framework of these aggressive plans, the efforts to extend atomic armament in the NATO countries and to deepen the division of the world, of Europe and of Germany, constitute a threat to peace in Europe. In this connection there arises the most serious danger for



Wladyslaw Gomułka (left) and Jozef Cyrankiewicz visit the Lauchhammer Engineering Works, which is building mining equipment for Poland. Hand in hand with the two Polish leaders walks little Miss Frigge, whose father, Waldemar Frigge, today a worker in the Lauchhammer factory, was saved from death by Jozef Cyrankiewicz during the war when they were both prisoners of the nazis in Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

Poland, for the other neighbours of Germany and for the German people themselves through the activities of the imperialist and militarist forces in West Germany. The tendencies of these forces also find their expression in the policy of the government of the German Federal Republic.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Polish United Workers' Party express their firm conviction that

in the present historical epoch war has ceased to be inevitable. Our parties aim at a lessening of international tension, but especially at disarmament and the outlawing of the production, stock-piling and use of atomic and hydrogen weapons. It is their desire to exploit all possibilities of achieving an international agreement on these questions.

Both parties will do their utmost to prevent Europe from becoming the touching-off point for a new war, and to create an effective system of collective security in Europe.

Both parties proclaim their warm sympathy and solidarity with the working class forces and all other peace-loving forces in the German Federal Republic in their fight against the plans of imperialist and militarist circles in West Germany. Every success in this fight brings closer the day of the reunification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state which can live in friendship with Poland and all other peoples.

Both parties are of the opinion that the strengthening of the Socialist states, the development of cooperation between all Socialist forces and the broadening of solidarity amongst all peace forces is a basic condition for the final victory of a lasting peace.

III.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Polish United Workers' Party are of the opinion that the interests of Socialist reconstruction and the maintenance of peace demand a further strengthening of unity and friendship and of brotherly cooperation between the Socialist countries.

Both parties express their strong opposition to all attempts to weaken this unity and cooperation through anti-Soviet propaganda, and to every effort to sow dissension between the Socialist countries and parties.

The historic achievements of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which was the first party in history to carry through the proletarian revolution successfully and to undertake Socialist construction, the great successes of the Communist Party of China, whose importance goes far beyond the Asiatic continent, and the valuable contribution of all communist and workers' parties constitute the great fund of knowledge and experience of the working class movement.

The big upsurge which has occurred in recent times in the international working class movement contributes to mutual exchange of experiences and to the development of creative Marxism-Leninism. The Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Polish United Workers' Party lay great value upon this exchange.

All countries have common principles of Socialist construction: the dictatorship of the proletariat in league with the working peasants, the leading role of the working class and its Marxist-Leninist Party, the development of productive forces on the basis of socialisation of the means of production, central planning and the unity of the Socialist states.

These principles should be applied in a creative way and with reference to the historically developed conditions, and national peculiarities of each country. This carries with it the necessity and the possibility for each country to apply its own forms and methods in building Socialism while each communist and workers' party stands firmly on the basis of ideological clarity within its ranks and works determinedly against revisionist or dogmatic falsifications.

Both delegations state that the 20th Party Congress of the CPSU has contributed to the further creative development of Marxism-Leninism. It contributed to the further development of relations between all Socialist states and between Communist and workers' parties on the basis of proletarian internationalism and full equality. The result was a further strengthening of solidarity in the international working class movement. The discussions which have recently taken place between brother parties in a number of countries are a proof of this.

The Polish United Workers' party expresses its solidarity with the struggle of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany for the reunification of Germany. The Polish United Workers' Party takes the view that the reunification of Germany is the task of the German people themselves. The Polish United Workers' Party at the same time welcomes the programme of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, which points the way to the reunification of Germany.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany welcomes the great successes achieved by the working people of Poland on the road to Socialism. It values highly the successful efforts of the Polish United Workers' Party in solving the problems arising in Socialist construction. The Socialist Unity Party sees in the results of the elections of January 20th of this year a sign of the trust which the Polish people place in the Polish United Workers' party.

IV.

The representatives of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and of the Polish United Workers' Party state with satisfaction that the discussions have brought the two parties closer together and have contributed to full mutual understanding. In order to improve and broaden cooperation in future, an exchange of party delegations or the purpose of an exchange study of experiences in party work has been agreed upon. Both parties will consult together on all important questions of interest to both sides.

Both delegations are firmly convinced that close cooperation between the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Polish United Workers' Party is of vital importance for our two peoples and serves the interests of peace and Socialism.

Berlin 20th June 1957.

WÄLTER ULBRICHT

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany

WLADISLAW GOMULKA

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party

EAST GERMAN SHIPS FOR WEST GERMAN WATERS

East German shipyards have begun to build ships for West Germany. Here from the West German newsmagazine "Spiegel" is an account of this interesting new development.

From their bureau windows directors and engineers of the big Hamburg wharves watched the gaily decorated inland steamer, "Blankenese", glide down the Elbe on its trial voyage.

They turned their binoculars on to the streamer floating out behind the ship which bore the name of the shipbuilders: "VEB Rosslauer Schiffswerft" — (Nationally Owned Rosslau Wharf). This emblem of a nationally owned concern of the so-called German Democratic Republic had never before been seen in Hamburg trial voyage waters. But the watchers were also interested in the crowd of guests on the deck of the "Blankenese". They were right in guessing that amongst these were the group of Federal German shipowners who have lately been insisting on permission to order their ships from "GDR" shipyards.

The transport machines department of the East German state foreign trade organisation, DIA (German Inner and Foreign Trade), in East Berlin has in fact been able to book extensive orders from the Federal Republic. West German shipbuilders have ordered the following:

- 20 inland motor freighters, freight capacity 920 tons,
- 15 inland tankers of the same size and
- 6 small ocean freighters, freight capacity 1,600 tons.

Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of four more ocean freighters of the same type.

Hamburg buyer and inland shipowner Willy Ertel, 56, is the go-between. He took over as West German representative for DIA transport machines a few months ago, and the "Blankenese" was also bought for Ertel's company, the "Hamburger Transport-Kontor".

During the trial voyage the other West German shipowners who have ordered ships through Willy Ertel were assured by Rosslau Wharf and DIA transport machines representatives that their orders would be promptly filled . . .

West German wharves building inland ships have enough orders to

keep them busy until 1959 or 1960, but the Rosslau Wharf on the Elbe is prepared to deliver to West Germany this autumn ships which were only ordered at the Leipzig Fair in March this year.

Handing over the "Blankenese" to his impatient customers wharf director Hinrichs, 49, assured them that "by next spring at least 20 inland motor ships with a total capacity of 20,000 tons will be floating in West German waters." . . .

In the present area under the East German government there were before 1945 few good wharves (only 5 per cent of the total German wharf capacity). Today the "GDR" has over 30 per cent of all German shipbuilding installations.

When last autumn . . . the Soviet Union decreased its orders for inland and ocean shipping, the East German government had to look elsewhere for customers. The Hamburg inland shipowner Willy Ertel, who was already on good business terms with the Soviet Zone, was the first to get wind of this.

He had hardly ordered his first ship in Rosslau before news of the favourable delivery terms spread to other West German shipowners. Soon afterwards Helmut Raesak, 42, director general of DIA transport machines, had to take on two additional assistants to deal with enquiries and orders from West Germany.

There are other reasons besides quick delivery terms for this sudden interest: the East German wharves . . . have been trained for quality work, whereas in many West German

wharves, as a result of general overwork and speeding up, a certain carelessness and neglect of quality has developed amongst workers .

The East German wharves are so sure of the quality of their ships that they are guaranteeing for a year; West German wharves only guarantee six months' sailing without repairs.

Raesak offers Federal German shipowners another advantage: the DIA ships are delivered at the price quoted when the order was given. Ships on West German order books become automatically dearer during the long period of waiting, during which wages and costs of building materials increase in price. For years now wharf directors have only concluded contracts with so-called "sliding clauses", so as to shift the risk connected with rising prices on to the customer.

Although the West German wharves have orders for years ahead, they cast jealous glances at what is going on in East Germany. The Wharf Association in Hamburg is at present trying to make up a list of all West German shipowners who have placed orders in the Soviet Zone. The association has sent out confidential circulars informing its members about the growth of the wharves in the "GDR" and warning them of the dangers which this state-controlled competition can present if conditions in the shipbuilding market deteriorate.

"GDR" wharves are already delivering ships to traditional customers of Federal Germany in Iceland, Sweden, Greece and Turkey.

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Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

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Berlin W 8, Germany

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Address

A DIFFICULT START

By Joan Becker

Apart from the glorious summer weather, things did not look so good when we drove into the village of Beiersdorf to see the "Free Earth" agricultural production cooperative there.

We passed a number of ruins and tumble-down cottages, a yard full of neglected looking agricultural implements and various building sites on our way to the village mayor's office — the former residence of the largest landowner in Beiersdorf, where there is also room for the cooperative office, the village school and four families.

But we got a friendly welcome from Albert Loose, chairman of the cooperative, and gorgeous bunches of peonies from the schoolchildren who ran out to have a look at us.

Albert Loose, himself a former farm labourer, was obviously expecting plenty of questions, for he had two cooperative members, the district Socialist Unity Party secretary, the editor of the local paper and the village policeman to help and we all sat down in the big panelled hall of this former private mansion, which was filled with a lovely summer scent from big pots of syringa.

We soon found out why Beiersdorf still looks rather forlorn. The village had been the scene of one of those last-ditch Nazi resistance actions against Soviet forces advancing on Berlin, so that more than a third the houses and farm buildings were destroyed. An attempt was made after 1945 to farm land left derelict as a village communal farm, but the former owners had taken all their stock, machinery and implements with them on their flight to the west and the small peasants and farm labourers who remained had precious little of their own. They were able to borrow some implements, but not enough to cope with such big areas. Arndt, the biggest landowner in Beiersdorf, had owned over a thousand acres and nineteen families had been employed by him as farm labourers.

Some of the land was later divided up amongst former farm labourers and resettlers from the East, each family receiving about twelve acres, and a number of houses were built by the government for the resettlers. But things improved very slowly

and it was not until 1952 that the first few peasants got together to form a Type I cooperative — i.e., they farmed their land cooperatively but kept stock independently.

But their difficulties were still not over; they had too little experience, there was too much derelict land to be brought back under cultivation, and they also made a big mistake in choosing their first chairman. He turned out to be a drunkard and to have no gift for getting people to work together for the common good. The second chairman was even worse; he embezzled cooperative funds and fled to West Germany leaving everything in confusion.

So when Albert Loose was sent to Beiersdorf by the Socialist Unity Party in 1955 the cooperative had existed mainly on paper for three years and he had his work cut out to get things going again. The results of his work are beginning to show now, for 119 families, about two thirds of the families in Beiersdorf — with about 1800 acres of farming land — now belong to the cooperative, which has also gone over to Type III, in which stock and implements, as well as land, are pooled, so that members spend a full eight-hour day working cooperatively.

In 1955 the cooperative only owned 126 pigs and 118 cows; they now have over 600 pigs and 411 cows, calves, several hundred head of poultry, 36 horses and a few sheep. The cows and pigs are still poorly housed and very over-crowded, in old sheds scattered all over the long, straggling village — as we saw when we walked round. But we also saw the new buildings which are going up, including a big cow-shed where electric milking can start this October, and one of the fine new pig-sheds where at least twenty sows were farrowing. We even witnessed the birth of several rosy piglets.

We also heard details of the cooperative's various quotas in milk, meat, grain, eggs etc., and compared these with actual yields, which are considerably higher. Quotas are now fixed individually for the various cooperatives, in consultation with cooperative members and taking things like soil fertility into consideration. Excess yields can then be sold on the free market at about twice or even three times the government quota

prices. This is where the cooperative gets its profits.

But the government has also extended various long and short term credits to the cooperatives and the "Free Earth" cooperative received a total of 750,000 marks — more than many other cooperatives because of the difficult position it was in. One third of this was remitted a couple of years ago and the rest is to be repaid from cooperative profits over a number of years.

The "Free Earth" does not yet have to pay any taxes, since it still has so much capital outlay. Running water has to be installed, for instance, old houses have to be repaired and many new ones built to replace the tumble-down cottages in which most cooperative members still live. The first step in solving the housing problem was the cooperative home-building plan. Cooperative peasants contribute not less than 10 per cent of building costs and the government helps with long-term loans repayable in monthly installments spread over fifty years. We saw the first four little houses completed under this scheme and visited Frau Hermann, who moved into hers a few months ago. She showed us her nicely furnished little sitting-room, kitchen and bathroom downstairs and one upstairs bedroom. The front bedroom we did not see, for her husband is a night watchman and was in bed.

Frau Hermann told us something about how they live. Her husband returned from the war a chronic invalid, so he can only do light work; but even so they earn about 600 marks a month as cooperative members and have an additional income from their own cow, pigs, chickens and one acre of land. All co-operators can farm about an acre for their own use and keep a reasonable amount of stock. As they have regular working hours in the cooperative — the statutory eight-hour day with some over-time during harvest — they can manage a certain amount of private farming.

Frau Hermann also told us about her grown-up son, who is an electrician working on an East German government project in Egypt, and we also heard about one co-operator's son who is studying agriculture at the

Humboldt University in Berlin. Herr Loose told us that he does all he can to keep young people on the land; his own son and elder daughter both want to learn farming and stay in the neighbourhood, and he feels this will be easier when people see that more and more of the work can be mechanised. He has worked out a very detailed contract with the district machine and tractor station, but there is still a good deal of hard manual work to do in connection with sugar beet and potatoes.

On the way back we looked in at the creche and kindergarten, which is run by one trained kindergarten teacher — a local girl who went away for two years' training — and two

helpers. There are generally about thirty children here, but at harvest time several more. As in all East German kindergartens there is only a small charge for their food — 30 pfennigs a day for second breakfast, lunch and tea.

The school arrangements in Beiersdorf are still not very satisfactory. We looked into the two class-rooms — one for classes 1 to 4 and the other for classes 7 and 8. Classes 5 and 6 go to the neighbouring village to school. There are about fifty children in the six classes taught here by three teachers. But this state of affairs will not go on much longer, for a big central school is nearly completed in a village about a mile

away which will serve a number of villages within a radius of about 5 miles.

Beiersdorf has had a long dry spell and we could imagine how much work had been involved carrying buckets of water in the old days. The new houses and all the new farm buildings now have water laid on from the village water system; everybody has electric light too. But there has been no beautifying and we had the feeling that there is still an endless amount to be done. Albert Loose and his friends, though, also gave us the feeling that they will keep plugging away until the "Free Earth" cooperative can stand on its own feet.

A Letter from The Past

By Eustace Gordon

Have you ever been to the laying of a foundation stone? If not, you have certainly seen one in a newsreel. If the building is an important one, then you know what happens: a brass box, or a steel cylinder, or something of that sort is sunk in the foundations, filled with all sorts of trivia, like a set of coins, a parchment document, and a set of daily newspapers.

When the building is torn down again in the course of town planning fifty years later, the box is dug up, and the cub journalist of the local newspaper has a fine time writing a story telling readers what odd moustaches and queer bathing costumes were depicted in the yellowing old newspapers which have been dug up again. They could have found it all in the old files of the newspaper at the local library, but it makes a story.

But today I want to tell you one of these stories with a difference. A week or two ago, a cow shed on the nationally-owned farm at Koenigs-wartha in the German Democratic Republic was demolished: it was not old, as cow sheds go, only twenty years old, in fact, but it was too small and cramped for the growing herd.

The demolition workers were not looking out for any documents: the cowshed was not the sort of building where a foundation stone would have been laid by a mayor wearing his chain of office. But they found something just the same. In a tightly sealed bottle bricked into the foundations they found this document:

"This shed was built by building workers Felfe and Schwurack in January and February 1937 — the fifth year of Hitler. Before he took over we were promised more bread and higher wages: until today we

have seen only the opposite. The big salaries of the officials were to be reduced: we have seen only the contrary. Like all other preceding governments, the Hitler government has forgotten the country workers. An agricultural worker gets 16 marks a week, without allowance in kind, or ten marks a week with allowance in kind. With that he has to keep a family of six or seven persons. The signatories hope that those who read this document will have a better life. (signed Paul Felfe, Albert Schwurack, Martha Mickel.)"

In the nearby village of Commerau, the reporter from a local newspaper, with a real live story to work on this time, tracked down Paul Felfe, who well remembered bricking up the message, but had never expected to hear of it again.

"We put messages like that in many other buildings we worked on then" he said. "In some of the other messages we spoke up much more openly on what we thought of the nazis". Paul Felfe, member of the agricultural workers union since 1912, got his own little farm through the sweeping land reform in East Germany in 1946, immediately after the defeat of the nazis. In 1952 he was one of the first to bring his farm into the agricultural production cooperative which was being organised locally and is today a prosperous collective farmer, and represents his neighbours on the local council.

Martha Mickel, who also signed the letter, still works on the same farm as she did then. But formerly she was working for the local squire: today the farm has been socialised, and she is working for herself. Today there is no question of starvation

wages of 10 marks a week, or part payment in kind instead of money: average earnings are over 50 marks a week.

Third signatory, Albert Schwurack, also got his own farm when the land was divided up in 1946, and he is his own master, working for himself.

If the three of them got together today to build a cow-shed they would have quite different things to write on the document which they could seal in the foundations.

LETTER BOX

"I have been reading your paper for more than four years and I cannot say more than that I am extremely pleased to receive it every fortnight.

The paper is always up to date and presents the latest news about the GDR and about remilitarisation in West Germany.

I believe you should always write about life in the GDR as it really is, and not exaggerate. We know that everything is not as it should be in the GDR and we know that you sometimes make mistakes, for you are only human. The main thing is to try to correct the mistakes.

And I like reading your "Berlin Notebook" too.

One thing I should like to say: Go on with the fight against rearmament in Germany. We know what it means when former Nazis get weapons in their hands again. We in Belgium, although we are not very strong, will do our utmost to win the fight for peace."

K. M., Belgium

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

Like my colleague Joan Becker, who wrote about her holiday in England in the Guest Notebook in the last issue of GERMAN REPORT, I have just returned from a visit to my mother country.

I had a fine time, though the weather was truly English most of the time, but that is not what I want to write about. While I was in England, I met a lot of people of all sorts, and what struck me most was the astonishing lack of information on the part of most of them about the German Democratic Republic.

Boss Press

Now that is not really their fault, of course. It is the fault of the British millionaire press, which seems to me to give, by and large, less and less foreign news, or news of any sort, and more and more pictures of what can most tactfully be described as bathing beauties.

I met all sorts of people: Conservatives, Liberals, Labour supporters, pacifists and Communists. With very few exceptions they had only the haziest notion of the existence of the German Democratic Republic. If you mentioned the word "Germany" then they immediately thought of Adenauer, the new West German Wehrmacht, and so on — if they thought of anything at all. For most of them, even those concerned in their day to day work with foreign affairs, East Germany was a misty sort of "zone" somewhere off to the east, and was not really Germany at all. (In brackets I should like to mention one man, a schoolmaster I am sorry to say, who, when I said I was working as a journalist in East Germany, immediately asked whether I wrote in Russian. When I told him I didn't know a word of Russian he was obviously rather surprised, since he apparently assumed that Russian was the everyday language of the 18 million citizens of the German Democratic Republic.)

Does it Matter?

But you may ask whether it really matters very much that people in Britain don't know much about East Germany. They don't know much about Rumania, or Portugal, or Peru either. But I think that the case is different. It seems to me to matter very much, because what happens in Portugal or Peru, important as it may be, is not of vital and immediate

By John Peet

consequence to the peace of the world. What happens in Germany, both halves of Germany, is of vital importance to the peace of Europe and the peace of the world.

As I said, most people in Britain, and probably in the other parts of the western world, know something about the remilitarisation and renazification in West Germany, and by and large they don't like it. But the fact that there is another part of Germany, in which the Speidels and the Krupps have nothing to say, is only very dimly present at the backs of their minds.

So at the risk of boring readers who know all about it, I think I might recapitulate a few short facts about the German Democratic Republic, where nazism has really been eradicated, where the factories have been taken away from the cannon kings who helped to launch two world wars.

Size

First of all, the size of the country: the German Democratic Republic comprises about one third of the total area of Germany, and rather less than one third of the population. It is as big as Holland and Belgium combined, and has about the same population as these two countries taken together.

Economically the German Democratic Republic makes a good showing too: it is fifth in rank in total industrial production amongst all the states of Europe, coming after the Soviet Union, Britain, France and West Germany. In soft coal production, its biggest single industry, Democratic Germany outranks all other countries in the world.

It has, like every other sovereign state in the world, its own police, frontier, defence forces; it runs its own schools and courts, and all the other apparatus of a state; and it maintains friendly diplomatic relations with countries inhabited by nearly half the population of the world.

All of this seems self-evident to those of us who live here, but I have to throw these facts at you because I have seen that it is not so obvious to many people in the west.

What does all this add up to? It adds up to the fact that the German Democratic Republic is a going

concern. It has its difficulties and shortcomings, but it is there to stay, until a practical way is found to reunite Germany, something which must come sooner or later.

Like it or Not

Whether people in the west like its government or economic system or not, they will have to take it into consideration sooner or later. There has been a lot of Nelson's blind eye business in international politics in recent years. Whenever Mr Dulles, for instance, hears the word "China", he claps his telescope to his blind eye and declares he can't see any such place, except for a small island off the coast; and most of the western world has been acting in the same way with regard to the German Democratic Republic.

And this attitude has, of course, only encouraged West German Chancellor Adenauer in his stubborn view that there is no such place as the German Democratic Republic, and therefore he cannot possibly enter into negotiations with its government about ways and means of bringing the two German states closer together as a preliminary step towards reunification.

To get down from the rarified regions of international diplomacy to practical steps, what can you do about it? One little step, which may not seem like much, but would be a little helper along the way, would be for you to sit down, right now, and send us a list of the names and addresses of your friends and acquaintances who are interested in foreign affairs, and who should know more about the German problem, and in particular the German Democratic Republic. We shall be delighted to send them some trial issues of this paper, beginning with this issue. Somebody has got to start somewhere: why not you?

1966 Again?

None of the newspaper headlines I saw during my stay in England delighted me as much as this one, in the London "Evening Standard" on June 13:

"NEW FRENCH PREMIER FOR LONDON".

Whoever he is, he couldn't be much worse than some of the last ones they have tried out at Westminster.